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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: BUECHLER et al.

Title: METHOD FOR MONITORING  
THE STATUS OF ASSAY AND  
IMMUNOASSAY

Appl. No.: 09/712,615

Filing Date: November 13, 2000

Examiner: Cook, L.

Art Unit: 1641

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.</p> <p><u>Jodie M. Price</u> (Printed Name)</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> (Signature)</p> <p><u>November 9, 2001</u> (Date of Deposit)</p>
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**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated August 24, 2001, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the specification as filed with the amended specification submitted herewith as Appendix A. A marked-up specification indicating the amendments is also submitted herewith as Appendix B.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please replace claims 27 and 28 with the following amended claims. A marked-up version of the amendments to the claims is submitted herewith as Appendix C.